

REMARKS:

Applicants are amending claims 1 and 6, and are canceling claims 5 and 7, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6, and 8-12 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,071 to Rogers. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

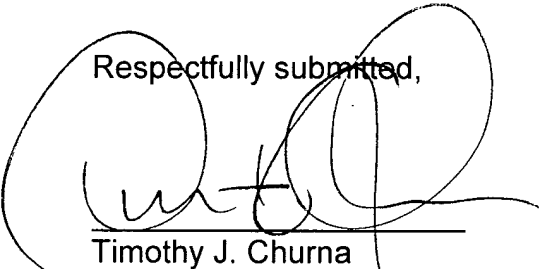
Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 6 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 5 and 7, respectively. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 at least for this reason.

Claims 2-4 depend from allowable, independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-4 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. In the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107156-00231.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)